Assistance to Maharashtra for Kharif crop loss

2593. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that about 35 to 40 thousand farmers in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra have beend badly affected by the loss of their standing kharif crops on more than 30 thousand hectares, due to torrential rains this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance provided by the Union Government to farmers whose kharif crop has been damaged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA) (a) to (c) The Government of Maharashtra, in their Memorandum submitted to the Ministry of Home Affairs for the floods in July-August 2005, reported that approximately 5.5 lakh hectares crop area has suffered losses in the State including Vidarbha region affecting a large number of farmers.

The report of the Central Team deputed for an on the spot assessment of damage and requiement of funds was considered by the Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) and thereafter by the High Level Committee (HLC). The HLC has approved release of Rs. 697.45 crore (including Rs. 65.17 crore for agriculture sector) from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) subject to the adjustment of the 75% of the balances in Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) account in the States for the instant calamity and adhoc releases made fromt he NCCF.

Assistance to J&K for agriculture production

2594. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to grant special status to J&K to increase its agricultural production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government for promoting agriculture to improve the condition of farmers in the State; and

(d) the details of the amount allocated for the purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA) (a) No proposal relating to grant of special status to Jammu and Kashmir to increase its agricultural production is under the consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The schemes of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation are meant to enhance agricultural production and productivity which, in turn, improves the well being of the farmers in all States/UTs of the country including Jammu and Kashmir. The Major schemes/interventions operational in Jammu and Kashmir are Macro Management of Agriculture (including Eco-restoration of degraded catchments of Jhelum, Chenab and Shivaliks) and Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North Eastern Region including Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal.

(d) The funds allocated under major Centrally Sponsored Schemes for promotion of agricultural production and productivity in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years are at statement (see below). In addition, the State Plan outlays allocated for Jammu and Kashmir for "agriculture and allied activities" for the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are respectively Rs. 24675.15 lakh, Rs. 23554.66 lakh and Rs. 25726.25 lakh.

Statement

Scheme-wise allocation of funds for major centrally Sponsored schemes for promotion of agricultural production and productivity in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years.

(In Rs. lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Budget allocation (2002-03)	Budget allocation (2003-04)	Budget allocation (2004-05)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Macro Management of Agriculture	1600.00	1600.00	1600.00

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in J&K*	—	750.00	1350.00
3.	Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP)	—	5.00	—
4.	Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP)	5.00	12.00	—
5.	National Pulses Development Project (NPDP)	4.50	4.00	—
6.	Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM)#	—	—	170.00

* Scheme became operational in J&K w.e.f. 2003-04.

Schemes at Sl. Nos. 3 to 5 merged into Scheme at Sl. No. 6 w.e.f. 1st April, 2004.

Employment melas by CIFNET

2595. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked the Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training (CIFNET) to hold employment or rozgar melas to find trained and certified crew for imported deep-sea fishing vessels and tuna boats;

(b) the number of such employment melas held by CIFNET of Cochin in the last six weeks;

(c) the number of people who came forward and could be hired as fishing hads and other jobs;

(d) whether it is a fact that CIFNET has agreed to supply adequate crew to all companies operating deep-sea tuna vessels; and

(e) if so, the details of the assurance given by CIFNET and Government to imported tuna boat operators?